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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**FISCAL YEAR 2005
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL MEMO #27**

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions

FROM: Mary Ann Chartrand, Director
Grants Coordination and School Support

DATE: August 22, 2005

SUBJECT: **Effects of Bussing on Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program**

Assigning school children to a school outside the attendance area of their neighborhood school can present a barrier to participation in the At-risk Afterschool program in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Bussing can have the effect of causing a site, located in an area in which poor economic conditions exist, to be designated as ineligible based on enrollment data which has been adjusted to reflect student reassignments.

To address this issue, in situations where public schools routinely bus children from their neighborhood school to other schools, site eligibility may be based on one of two methods. The Program sponsor may determine eligibility based on the enrollment/attendance data obtained for:

- the school the children attend and are bussed (represents currently established policy),
or
- the school the children would have attended were it not for the school's bussing policy (the neighborhood school where the children live.) Program sponsors may determine a site to be area eligible in this situation only if the school food authority is able to document the percentage of children eligible for Category A or B at each school, before and after students are reassigned. The same method of determining site eligibility must be used for all sites participating under that Program sponsor to avoid duplicate counting.

If you have questions, contact the CACFP at (517) 373-7391.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324